

# THE TRUTH ABOUT FLAX



**A  
PROFITABLE  
CASH CROP  
FOR THE  
PRAIRIE  
FARMER**

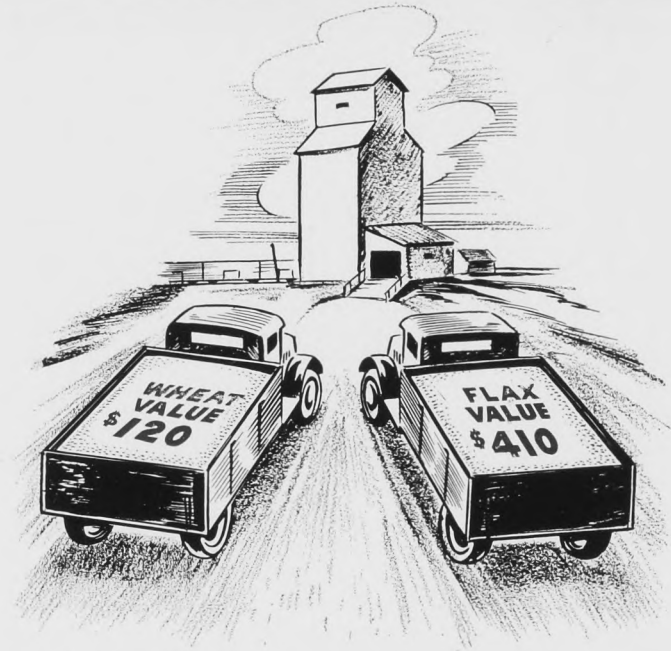
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# FLAX FOR THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES...

## IT COSTS YOU LESS TO DELIVER YOUR CROP

It costs you less to harvest Flax because there are fewer bushels to handle, fewer trips to make to town. It's a premium crop. It does not require a lot of bushels for a big income. Flax is more valuable per bushel than any other grain.



Revised edition. Published by

**THE NATIONAL BARLEY AND LINSEED FLAX COMMITTEE**  
**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

*All information contained in "The Truth About Flax" has been approved by the Dominion,  
Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta Departments of Agriculture*

# FLAX IS A GOOD CROP FOR PRAIRIE FARMERS . . .



## **IS FLAX A PROFITABLE CROP FOR THE AVERAGE FARMER? YES!**

Flax has never been a surplus crop. The increasing number of new flax uses and the new demand for flax straw indicate that the demand will increase. It should continue to be one of the most profitable small grain crops.

Flax rates well as a crop. It is superior as a nurse crop, particularly with alfalfa. In the past few years it has been a good early deliverable cash crop. When properly rotated in the cropping program, flax is not hard on the land. It takes no more out of the soil than other grains. It has no serious insect enemies. The history of flax since the early days when it was a prairie-breaking crop until the present time when it has been worked into the regular rotations has proved that in most years, with the proper spread in prices, it is a profitable venture.

Flax is a high priced crop and requires good farming methods. High flax yields demand careful planning, good seed and correct cultural practices. When these are

followed, flax should earn a prominent, profitable place in every crop program.

## **ARE FLAX PRODUCTS USED BY THE FARMER? YES!**

The products of flax are used by every farmer: in paint for his buildings; in paint for farm machinery and the automobile; in linoleum for his floors and oilcloth for his table; in the printer's ink used not only in his newspapers but in Government bulletins, etc.; as an oil for core-sand in the making of the castings used in his machines; in the production of rubber used in tires on farm machinery, trucks and cars; as a feed for livestock, linseed oil-meal not only supplies protein to the ration but has medicinal properties not found in other protein concentrates; in the manufacture of cigarette paper, currency paper and documentary paper; and finally, as an edible oil in the manufacture of shortenings used in the home. Flax is therefore a crop that should be grown by many Western Canadian farmers.

# FLAX IS A GOOD CROP SAY CANADIAN FARMERS . . .



## 25 BUSHELS PER ACRE

"We have found flax a very profitable crop," reports H. B. Somerville, from Hartney, Manitoba. "Last year we seeded 2,500 acres and the yield averaged around 15 bushels per acre. One field of 120 acres averaged 25 bushels. On second and third crop land our Flax averaged \$35.00 per acre as compared to wheat on our best ground first crop, averaging \$24.00 per acre. We find that Flax stands more drought, hail and windstorm damage, heat and unfavorable conditions than any other crop we have grown. We generally spring plow and harrow early and about three or four weeks later cultivate or one-way disc it again, and pack and seed and repack the ground. This cleans up the seed bed and produces a moist firm seed bed for shallow planting which is very necessary."

## 35 BUSHELS PER ACRE

O. Colbens from Tilley, Alberta, says: "I find Flax does well on irrigated land. Last year with light cultivation and packing I got 35 bushels per acre. This Flax was never irrigated after seeding."

## MOST PROFITABLE CROP IN 38 YEARS

A. Summach from Asquith, Saskatchewan, states: "The most profitable crop that I have produced in my 38 years of farming was a crop of Royal Flax: a record yield of 30 bushels to the acre on several hundred acres."

"Flax is a crop that responds to good farming practices. Well-drained, reasonably clean ground should be selected. Seed shallow and uniform but deep enough to be into the moisture from 1 inch to 1½ inches deep."



## NEW GROWER FINDS FLAX PROFITABLE

J. D. Dovell, Langbank, Sask., writes: "I had a summerfallow of 120 acres, but saw I could not get it into wheat in time, so I switched to flax. As I still use horses, it was June 7 before I got it sowed. Had a wonderful looking crop, but lots of weeds in it. Late seeding meant late coming in, and I had 3 snowstorms on it before it was combined. Used a 12-foot swather and swathed one way, then a 12-foot self-propelled M.H. combine to pick up the swathed flax. When combined, had 1,500 bushels of flax with 19½ percent dockage, which sold for \$3.05 a bushel. I intend to get a self-propelled combine and sow all flax again this year."



# THE TRUTH ABOUT FLAX...

## **IS FLAX A RISKY CROP? NO!**

Flax is a much misunderstood crop. Some farmers consider it a hazardous crop and plant only when prices are high. They make no provision for its inclusion in their regular cropping program.

However, many farmers grow flax consistently, year after year, and state it is a most profitable crop over a long term of years. Good cultural practices combined with careful planning take the risk out of flax growing.

## **CAN WEEDS BE CONTROLLED? YES!**

Weeds will always be a problem where flax is grown. However, many farmers, through obtaining clean seed, using a planned rotation and good cultural practices, have made weeds a minor problem.

## **IS FLAX HARD ON THE SOIL? NO!**

Flax, properly handled, is not hard on the soil. In the early years flax was grown only on spring prairie breaking. While a good crop of flax was produced, it did not provide for the proper rotting of the sod and succeeding crops were often poor. As soon as the land was summerfallowed, good crops were again obtained. In addition, the wilt disease of flax made it impossible to produce a good second crop of flax, and further led to the

false conception that flax was hard on the land. Wilt is no longer a menace owing to the use of wilt-resistant varieties.

## **IS FLAX STRAW A PROBLEM? NO!**

In the past, flax straw, when the crop was combined, has been a problem. It was usually not sufficiently heavy to burn and caused considerable trouble in plowing or one-waying. In some areas it is no longer a problem. In the Red River Valley it is a source of revenue, and a recent announcement indicates that other areas will be developed in the near future. In 1945 some farmers sold flax straw to paper manufacturers at from eight to eleven dollars per ton delivered to the factory.

## **IS DISEASE A PROBLEM? NO!**

Development of rust and wilt-resistant varieties has helped farmers in overcoming the worst diseases. In Western Canada pasmo is not serious. The Government and University plant breeders will doubtless develop even more resistant varieties.

Successful flax growers must plan their fields—they must anticipate weeds—they must follow approved cultural practices—but the high returns per acre merit careful planning and planting.

Flax is a good crop for many prairie farmers.



# CHOOSING THE FIELD...

## **IS GOOD LAND NECESSARY? YES!**

Flax is a cash crop and merits the use of first quality land.

Four things should be considered when choosing the best field for flax—fertility, freedom from weeds, drainage and past history of the field. Here the tilth and cropping practices which have influenced these factors must qualify decisions. Flax needs good soil and available moisture for maximum growth. As a rule it does not grow well on sandy or gravelly soils.

## **SHOULD THE LAND BE FERTILIZED? YES!**

The best evidence to date indicates that fertilizers benefit flax, but in most cases farmyard manure should be applied to the crops preceding flax. Commercial fertilizers if used sparingly at about 25 pounds per acre may be applied with the flax crops. Barnyard manure not only may carry seeds, but if used for the flax crop leaves the land too open. However, if the manure is applied in the summerfallow year, flax will respond to it the following year.

## **WILL FLAX COMPETE WITH WEEDS? NO!**

Flax is a poor weed competitor. Give it the best chance by selecting a field that is known to be relatively

free of the many common annual weeds that bother the crop.

## **SHOULD THE SOIL BE WET? NO!**

High, well-grained soil allows early spring work, which is most important in growing flax. High land is apt to be freer from weeds, for water carrying weed seeds will not have flooded it in previous seasons.

## **IS THE PREVIOUS CROP IMPORTANT? YES!**

In the past it has been the practice to recommend that flax should be grown only on breaking, summerfallow, or after intertilled crops. However, later investigations have shown that often cleaner and better crops may be secured on properly prepared stubble land. Flax stubble, however, should be avoided, as rust, pasmo and browning diseases live over winter on the flax straw and stubble and wilt in the soil. On heavy soils the land should be either fall-plowed or one-wayed, and surface cultivated the following spring. On loam soils the plowing or one-waying may be delayed until the spring, but the cultivation should be done sufficiently early to allow for the destroying of one or two crops of weeds before seeding.

# FLAX IN THE CROP ROTATION...

## **CAN FLAX BE USED IN THE FARM ROTATION? YES!**

The price per bushel is high and increased yields will make it a profitable crop in the rotation. Flax is well adapted to rotation plans in the Canadian west, for it fits into the rotation in exactly the same way as small grains. It is seeded, harvested and threshed with the same equipment.

## **DOES IT PAY TO PLAN THE ROTATION? YES!**

In planning the rotation, the following facts should be considered: (1) Flax requires the moisture near the surface; therefore in dry seasons summerfallow is suggested. (2) Sometimes flax should, for the sake of weed control, be grown on first crop stubble land. (3) Where forage crops are grown flax can be used to advantage as a nurse crop for grasses, alfalfa, red clover and alsike clover. Flax should not be used as a nurse crop for sweet clover, because the clover frequently grows so rank in the first year that it makes flax harvesting very difficult.

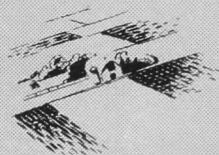
(4) Flax can be grown after breaking either tame grasses and clovers or prairie sod to advantage, provided the land is worked by disking and harrowing until it is level and firm. There are advantages in including flax in the grain rotation: first it is not subject to the same diseases as cereals, and second, many of the insects that attack grains, such as wheat-stem sawfly, etc., will not attack flax.

## **CAN A SINGLE ROTATION BE RECOMMENDED? NO!**

The type of rotation is dependent to a large degree upon the characteristics of the farm, type of farming, and the weed situation in the proposed flax fields. Agricultural representatives of the Provincial Extension Service should be consulted when planning the crop programme.

## **DOES FLAX CONTROL SOIL DRIFTING? NO!**

Where there is danger of soil drifting, the use of small fields, about 20 acres each, sown in strips between other crops is recommended.





# PREPARING THE SEED BED...

## **IS A FIRM SEED BED NECESSARY? YES!**

Increased flax yields will more than compensate for the extra time necessary to prepare a proper seed bed.

## **CAN FLAX BE GROWN ON BREAKING? YES!**

While fair crops of flax can be secured on spring breaking, it has been found that best results are obtained when the breaking has been done the preceding summer. This allows for the better rotting of the sod and the levelling of the surface. Flax requires a firm, fine, level seed bed.

## **SHOULD ONE SOW FLAX ON SUMMER-FALLOW? YES!**

The summerfallow should be as free from weeds as possible. Before seeding, the soil should be levelled with a drag-harrow, possibly preceded by double-disking or duck-footing. Where diskling and cultivating are necessary it should be as shallow as possible and a good cultivation job will result. Most summerfallows contain weed seeds and the flax grower should attempt to eliminate at least one crop of weeds before sowing his crop. After harrowing, it usually takes two weeks for the weeds to get a good start and seeding may be delayed until about May 15th or 20th.

## **WILL FLAX GROW ON STUBBLE LAND? YES!**

The practice of sowing flax on stubble land has increased tremendously in recent years. This has been due

to several factors, among them—(1) the efficiency of sowing with a one-way with a seed attachment; (2) the warmer soil and quicker growth on stubble as compared with fallow; and (3) the weediness of most summerfallows requires more weed control tillage in the spring. Stubble land should be disked lightly in the fall, soon after harvest. This fall diskling will start many of the weeds. Where no fall cultivation has been done, the land can be lightly disked early in the spring to cover surface weeds and encourage germination. After spring diskling, it takes two weeks for a crop of weeds to make a start. Consequently, the seeding of flax may be delayed until about the third week of May. Heavy stubble may be eliminated by burning, although on general principles this is not a practice to be recommended.

## **CAN FLAX BE SOWN WITH A TILLER COMBINE? YES!**

The use of the tiller combine for seeding flax has increased enormously in Western Canada. One reason for this is the accuracy of the new seeder attachments as compared with the inaccuracy of the old worn drills. Another seems to be the spreading or scattering the seed by the one-way, allowing a more complete soil coverage by the flax plants than is obtained with a drill. With the use of the tiller combine great care must be exercised not to plant the seed too deeply and to have soil packed immediately after seeding.



# CHOOSING THE VARIETY...

## SHOULD ONE SOW PURE SEED? YES!

Increased yields of one bushel or more per acre are attributed to clean seed. This extra bushel more than pays the cost of having the seed cleaned and treated. Real progress has been made in developing disease-resistant varieties of flax. Since varieties cannot be readily distinguished by their seed, it is necessary to buy from a reliable source. Because varieties which yield well in some localities may produce poorly in others, consult your agricultural representative before buying. Seed should be adapted to the locality, tested for germination, cleaned and treated. Registered and certified seed insures varietal purity and protection against sowing noxious weeds. If necessary to buy seed, contact your University, Extension Service or Field Crops Commissioner.

## IS THE VARIETY IMPORTANT? YES!

**ROYAL**—A high-yielding, rust resistant variety developed at the University of Saskatchewan and recommended for all areas where rust is a hazard. It is particularly adapted to long season areas. It is moderately resistant to wilt and spring frosts.

**REDWING**—One of the older dependable varieties adapted, because of its earliness, to the more northern regions. This variety is moderately resistant to wilt and less susceptible to rust than Bison. It has consistently outyielded the later varieties in all northern and north-central areas in Alberta.

**VICTORY**—A white blossomed variety producing

large brown seeds and maturing with Royal. Stands generally not uniform as to height or maturity but yields well. Resistant to flax wilt and rust, but quite susceptible to pasmo.

**VIKING**—Has large yellow seeds of good quality. It resembles Royal in lateness. Yields somewhat less and has a much shorter straw. The very short straw of Viking is one of its disadvantages; the other is that it is very susceptible to the pasmo disease.

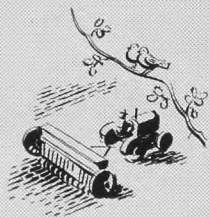
**BUDA**—Is a wilt-resistant variety, moderately resistant to rust. It is grown only in a limited quantity in Western Canada and pure seed is difficult to obtain.

**BISON**—Is highly resistant to wilt, but very susceptible to rust. It was the main variety grown in Western Canada until rust became a problem. Compared with Royal, Bison averages distinctly lower in yield. It is a few days earlier but should not be grown except in areas where rust has not proven to be a problem. It is the most satisfactory variety for southern Alberta.

## SHOULD THE SEED BE TREATED? YES!

Flaxseed should be treated with a mercuric dust such as Ceresan. Nearly all flaxseed in Western Canada requires treatment, because of the minute cracks in the seed coats which allow micro-organisms in the soil to kill the seed before germination takes place, unless chemical dusts prevent this from happening. Apply Ceresan at the rate of 1½ ounces per bushel. The seed should not be treated more than one month before seeding.





# EARLY PLANTING...

## IS THE METHOD OF SEEDING IMPORTANT? YES!

Flax should be sown as soon as the soil is moderately warm, which is usually about the second week in May, or about a week after wheat seeding commences. Cold soil retards germination and emergence and gives the weeds a chance to get ahead of the flax. If early May is cold, flax seeding should be delayed until the weather is reasonably warm. Where flax seeding is delayed until a crop of weeds is killed it is well to remember that most flax varieties take longer than Marquis wheat to mature. Seeding is sometimes delayed to avoid spring frost damage. This is a mistake, as the disadvantages of late seeding usually outweigh the advantages. In most years the best results are obtained by seeding between the 10th and 20th of May. When flax emerges it is usually fairly resistant to frost, then for a few days it is less resistant, and thereafter shows greater resistance again.

## SHOULD FLAX BE SOWN EARLY? YES!

Ordinarily flax should be sown before May 20th, except in the southern parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Flax sown after May 25th will often be troublesome to harvest and low in yield and grade. However, it must be recognized that flax sown on stubble usually ripens in less time than a summerfallow crop and can therefore be sown later.

## DOES RATE OF SEED AFFECT YIELD? YES!

For a variety with medium-sized seed, like Royal, from 25 to 40 pounds of seed per acre is recommended. A sound basis is a rate of 28 pounds per acre for good seed of medium size treated with mercuric dust. This basic rate should be modified to suit conditions. For example, it should be increased where the seed is large, the germination low, the soil especially rich or moist, the seeding late, the soil weedy, or where thinning from cutworms, frost or harrowing is anticipated. In Alberta irrigated land requires heavier seeding than dry land. Most irrigation farmers sow up to 40 pounds of seed per acre.

## SHOULD SEED BE SOWN SHALLOW? YES!

The flax seedling is weak when emerging and is not able to push through a tight, hard soil, or break a thick surface crust. Flax should be sown into moderately firm, moist soil, but no deeper than is necessary to obtain uniform germination. On medium-light to medium-heavy soils a depth of 1½ inches is generally satisfactory. Care should be exercised to plant the seed at a uniform depth. Attachments are now available for most double-disk drills to make the depth of seeding uniform. If a one-way with drill attachment is used, seeding may be slightly deeper, but must be uniform.

# KEEPING OUT THE WEEDS...

## **DOES FLAX MAKE LAND WEEDY? NO!**

Flax does not bring weeds to the field, but because the slender plant does not shade the ground as densely as do other grains, weeds present in the soil grow more readily. In addition to early sowing, the selection of clean fields, the use of clean seed, proper crop rotation and shallow spring work, there are other important methods of controlling weeds in soil.

## **WILL HARROWING AFTER SEEDING KILL WEEDS? YES!**

Sometimes the weed growth will start before the flax. Where this happens, the harrowing of the field before the flax emerges may be effective in killing weed growth. Where narrow-toothed "weeders" are available, this implement may be used to better advantage than the harrow.

## **IS SPRAYING ADVISED? YES!**

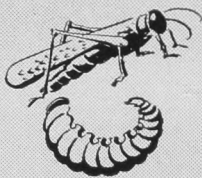
A selective weed spray known as "Sinox" is most effective in combatting broad-leaved annual weeds. When applied to flax fields it causes only slight temporary, if any, injury to the flax plant, but effectively eliminates such weeds as wild mustard, pigweed, lambs-quarter, wild buckwheat, stinkweed and others. Tests indicate that the use of Sinox may increase yields three to four bushels per acre.

## **DO WEEDS AFFECT THE VALUE OF STRAW? YES!**

Flaxseed yields of marketable straw can be greatly increased by reducing weeds. The value of the straw is greatly reduced if weeds are present. Such weeds as cocklebur make the straw useless for paper manufacture.

Weeds are the big problem for flax growers, but the return flax offers makes it worthwhile to take real measures to combat the weeds.





# CONTROL OF INSECTS AND DISEASES...

## DO INSECTS ATTACK FLAX? YES!

Flax has fewer insect enemies than most grain crops.

Grasshoppers, wire-worms, beet-web-worms, bertha-army-worms, cutworms and the flax boll worm are the most important insects attacking flax. The last three occur only occasionally in destructive numbers. They may be killed with poisoned bait. With beet-web-worms, bait is spread in furrows, plowed ahead of advancing worms. Grasshoppers are also controlled by poisoned bait. No economical control measures have been worked out for the flax boll worm or the wire-worm. Wire-worms cannot be poisoned. It is best not to sow flax in fields known to be badly infested with wire-worms. However, flax is much less injured than wheat by wire-worms.

## CAN DISEASES BE CONTROLLED? YES!

Flax rust attacks the leaves, stems and bolls of the plants, producing on them orange-yellow or reddish-yellow spots which later turn black. The severity of localized out-

breaks can be reduced by burning or by plowing down the flax stubble and plant refuse during the fall or very early spring, and by seeding the new flax crop as far removed as possible from the previous year's fields. The seed should be thoroughly cleaned. The only practical way of preventing such infection is to sow rust-resistant varieties. Viking is immune; Royal fairly resistant; Redwing and Buda moderately susceptible; Bison very susceptible.

In the early years wilt was the only disease prevalent. It is controlled by the use of wilt-resistant varieties and to some extent by proper rotation of crops.

Pasmo has been present in Manitoba for some years, but as yet has caused comparatively little damage. Many of the varieties that are immune to flax rust, particularly the yellow-seeded ones, are very susceptible to pasmo. Therefore in Manitoba Viking is not recommended.

"Browning Disease," also called "Stem Break," has caused damage in parts of Western Canada. Browning is controlled by seed treatment with a mercuric dust and the avoidance of following flax with flax on the same field.



# HARVESTING AND MARKETING...



## **IS FLAX DIFFICULT TO HARVEST? NO!**

With proper equipment, flax is no more difficult to harvest than other grains.

Though the cash return from an acre of flax may exceed that from other grains, there are fewer bushels to handle on the farm—fewer trips to market. Flax can be harvested when most of the stalks and bolls are brown without injuring the yield and quality of seed and straw. Prompt harvesting reduces the volume of weed growth.

## **CAN ADJUSTMENTS BE MADE TO IMPROVE THRESHING? YES!**

A good sharp knife with smooth-edged sections is essential for cutting flax, as it does not cut as easily as other grains. Where the straw is not to be used, a long stubble may be left. Normally it should be cut from 4 to 6 inches high. Where the straw is marketable it should be cut considerably lower than this to insure a longer stem. When harvested with a grain binder in the moister areas (as in Manitoba), flax should be stooked immediately, and since it does not dry easily it should be tied in small loose bundles.

In most of the flax areas combining is fast becoming the method of harvesting. In many sections straight combining is the practice. Where the flax fields are free from weeds and second growth, this system is quite satisfactory. Where the fields are weedy and the crop is late, combining may be delayed until the frost has killed the weeds. The practice of swathing and combining has the advantage that the crop can be cut at the proper stage of maturity, with

no loss of bolls. If weeds are present they will dry out and cause little trouble in combining. The combining can be done on dry warm days and better threshing will result. If the grain is to be combined, the cylinder speed should be increased, and where the cylinder is of the rubber type, the attachments recommended by the manufacturers should be used. Adjustment of the combine must be made frequently, according to the ease of threshing, to break all the bolls and prevent the seed from being thrown over. If in doubt as to the best method of threshing or combining, consult the Agricultural Engineering Department in your Extension Service or University.

## **IS FLAX EXPENSIVE TO MARKET? NO!**

More flax is needed in North America than is grown. For a few years at least there will also be a demand for flax seed from Europe. Selling flax, therefore, will be no problem in Western Canada.

Flax straw, once a problem to destroy is now a profitable item for many farmers. Where flax is grown within trucking distance of a breaking plant, the straw may be sold for the production of paper-making fibre. Where the crop is being threshed with an ordinary separator, care should be taken to build a stack that will shed water. If the crop is being combined, it will be necessary to gather up the straw either by raking into bunches or using a pick-up baler. If the straw is being bunched for sale, it should be shipped to the plant as soon as raked. Otherwise it may become tough or wet and spoiled, and thus be useless for this purpose.





### FLAX AN EXCELLENT CASH CROP

"For this district of Northern Saskatchewan I have found Redwing Flax an excellent cash crop, when grown on summerfallow," says J. Caplan from Weldon, Saskatchewan. "I recommend using a good grade seed, planting no deeper than one inch, about May 10th to 15th and using fertilizer.

"The best method is to cultivate shallow to kill the weeds, then harrow, pack and seed, all as soon as possible. The Flax germinates readily and comes up clean and beautifully. Flax is an easy crop to grow and to harvest with a combine. It compares very favorably in net cash return with any other crop."

### HIGH RETURNS FROM FLAX

"In my farming experience I have realized high returns per acre on my flax crop," says H. Feldbusch, from Vauxhall, Alberta. "In 1943 I sowed 85 acres and harvested 2110 bushels, an average of 25 bushels per acre; in 1944, 10 acres yielded between 34 and 35 bushels per acre and my total acreage again averaged 25 bushels and for that kind of money, flax becomes a mighty important cash crop on my farm.

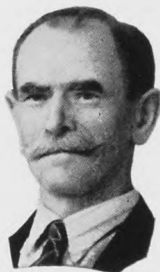
"If there is any secret to my success with Flax, it is this: good clean ground, dependable seed and proper planting methods.

"It is important to seed flax early for it is a poor weed fighter. I have found that with early planting, it will get ahead of the weeds."



### NORTHERN ALBERTA FARMER WELL PLEASED WITH FLAX CROP

F. T. Jackson, Clover Bar, Alberta, writes: "Clover Bar is one of the older mixed farming districts close to Edmonton, but flax has never been grown to any extent. Only recently it has been tried out by a few of us. On well-prepared, clean land with a fine cultivated top, I have produced from 18 to 30 bushels per acre. In our area, I have found the following necessary: sow 30 pounds per acre; sow about 1½ inches deep; sow early in May; use fertilizer as recommended for district; straight combine the crop. Let stand in fall until ripe. Will not injure even after a light snowfall. It is a nice crop to combine; combine in dry part of day or in frosty weather; no trouble from wrapping."



### MORE PROFITABLE THAN WHEAT GROWING

F. Van Ryssel, from Oakbank, Manitoba, says: "I have grown Flax for the past 15 years with satisfactory success. My average yield is 15 bushels per acre. During the last three years I have combined my Flax and have got up to Grade 1 C.W. or equally as good as from stooks. I find that the sale of Flax plus a revenue for Flax straw is more profitable than wheat growing. I shall continue to grow Flax as it fits in well with my labor distribution and rotation program."

# FLAX FOR THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES...

The increasing demand for flaxseed and the developing market for flax straw have increased the importance of flax growing to the prairie farmers.

There is one best place for growing everything—for flax, it is the Prairie Provinces.

The cool climate of these northern regions is so well suited to the raising of high quality flax that over 95% of all flax produced in Canada is grown in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. In 1946 the flax crop returned a gross revenue of some \$24,000,000 to the flax growers of this area.

Flax returns more to the farm than just dollars and cents. It is essential not only to the flax grower, but to every farmer in Western Canada. Every day he uses a flax product in the form of linseed oil paints, linseed oil meal, linoleum, oilcloth, waterproof clothing, farm machinery, rugs, upholstery, cigarette paper, currency paper, etc., and in numerous other ways. During the last few months millions of pounds of linseed oil have been used as edible oil in the form of shortening.

Flax is a crop with a bright future. Farmers of this country have not been able to fill the Canadian demand for flax, let alone the demand from United States and Europe. The market is already large. Flax uses and products are growing. With proper planning, flax should be one of the most profitable crops on many farms on the Prairies.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The compilers of this book wish to acknowledge that much of the text has been taken directly from the following publications:

"Increasing Farm Incomes With Flax"—published by the Flax Development Committee in the United States.

"The Growing of Flax, Agriculture Extension Bulletin No. 62"—published by the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask.

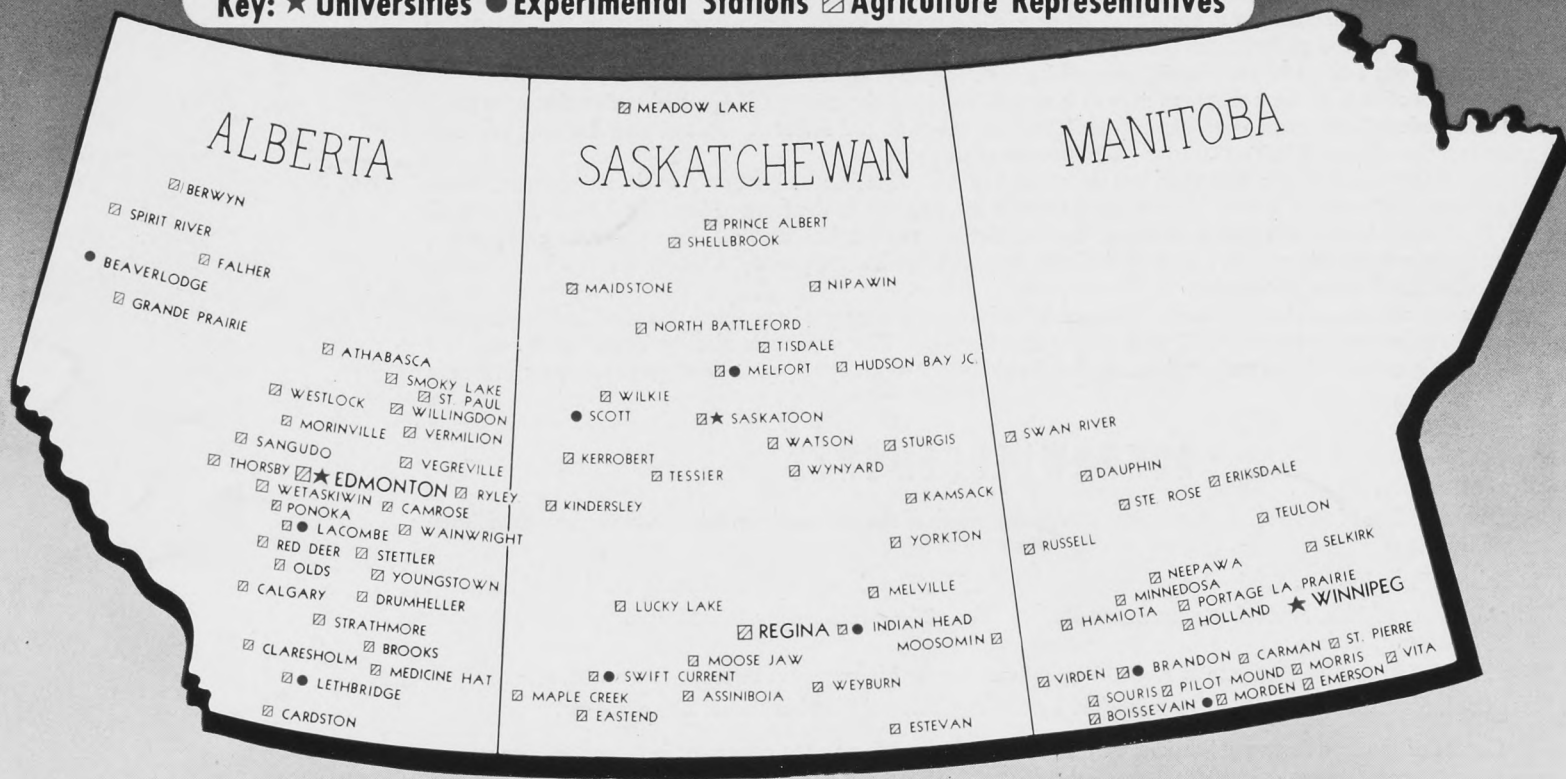
"Flax Production in Alberta, Circular No. 40"—published by the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta.

"Flax Seed, Special Pamphlet No.1"—published by the Agricultural Supplies Board, Ottawa, Ont.

Copies of the last three publications may be secured by writing to the addresses indicated.

# 96% of all the FLAX grown in Canada is raised in the Prairie Provinces

Key: ★ Universities ● Experimental Stations ☐ Agriculture Representatives



*For detailed information about growing of FLAX in your locality contact your University, Experimental Station and Agriculture Representative.*